

from Lombok, Sumbawa, Alor, and at least the one Timor specimen. This approaches the result arrived at by Dr. Gadow when writing on this species in the 'Catalogue of Birds' vol. viii. pp. 266, 267.

Of the fifteen adult Sumatran specimens from all parts of this island from Atjeh, Deli District, Fort de Kock, Bengkoelen, Von Volack, and Gung Dempu, not one has a wholly black cap, but all exhibit a rather narrow frontal bar, which is sharply defined against the grey head.

In this respect the Sumatran population very much resembles *L. schach caniceps* from Ceylon and Southern India, from which it is distinguished in the first place by the colour of the tail. While in *L. sumatræ*, as well as in *L. bentet* and *L. tosariensis*, only the two outer tail-feathers are greyish-brown, and all the others are black, in *L. caniceps*, as well as in *L. erythronotus*, only the middle pair or the two middle pairs are black, while all other tail-feathers are light greyish-brown. It is deplorable that the first two names are given to the Javan population, with its great variation in specimens, while the Sumatran population and that of the Lesser Sunda Islands to the east of Java shows very little variation.

There is very little variation in size in this great series. The wing measures in Sumatran and in West Javan specimens from 87 to 92 mm., but one male from Deli, Sumatra, has a wing of 96 mm. The sexing seems not to have been correct in all cases, but females seem to be always somewhat smaller than the males. The two Eastern Java specimens are slightly larger—wing 90, 92, 93, and 95 mm. Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa, and Alor specimens have wings from 89 to 92 mm., but the two Timor specimens only 86 and 87 mm.

I have to acknowledge the loan of comparison material from Prof. de Beaufort (Amsterdam), Prof. Pax (Breslau), Prof. Laubmann (Munich), Dr. Junge (Leiden), and for valuable information to Dr. Junge and Mr. N. B. Kinnear.

The Marquess HACHISUKA sent the following description of Mundy's Yellow Rail from Mauritius:—

Peter Mundy, the only describer and delineator of this flightless Yellow Rail from Mauritius, was born about the year 1596

at Penryn in Cornwall, and is supposed to have died about 1667 in his native town.

The account of his travels, very carefully prepared by himself, has long remained in manuscript and unpublished in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, while there is a second, less complete copy in the British Museum.

The second volume of his Journal, published in 1919 by the Hakluyt Society, contains an account of Mundy's first voyage to India, and proves to us that he was, like François Leguat, one of the most observant and truthful of all the older travellers. On his outgoing voyage in March 1633-34 he passed the island of Mauritius without calling there, but in 1638, when homeward bound from China, he called at the island and wrote a glowing account of the scenery, salubrity, and natural productions.

Mundy figures a strange-looking fowl and calls it "A Mauritius henne." Its description is as follows :—

"A Mauritius henne, a Fowle as bigge as our English hennes, of a yellowi[s]h Wheaten coullour, of which wee gotte only one. It hath a bigge long Crooked sharpe pointed bill, Feathered all over, butt on their wings they are soe Few and smalle thatt they cannott with them raise themselves From the ground.

"There is a pretty way off taking of them with a redde Cappe, butt this strucke with a sticke. They bee very good Meat, and are allsoe Cloven Footed, soe thatt the[y] Can Neyther Fly nor swymme More then the Former.

"Off these 2 sorts off Fowle afformentioned [Mundy first mentions the Dodo, *Raphus cucullatus*], For oughtt wee yett know, Not any to bee Found out off this Iland, which lyeth aboutt 100 leagues From St Lawrence [Madagascar]."

On looking through Mundy's drawings my attention was immediately brought to the accuracy and the extraordinary execution of the natural objects, but the "Henne" is the only composition which looks somewhat elementary, especially in its posture. The reason for this is that Mundy saw only one bird, which he killed, and the drawing must have been made from a dead specimen. The details, however, seem to be true to life.

Mr. W. L. Slater's article, "The Mauritius Hen of Peter Mundy," *Ibis*, 1915, pp. 316-319, fig. 5, constitutes the sole

scientific study of this bird, in which it is referred to as *Aphanapteryx broeckii*.

I cannot, however, share this opinion. *Aphanapteryx* has the dark cinnamon red plumage loose like *Apteryx*, with very small decomposed wing-feathers; it has no tail, while the "Mauritius henne" although short, has proper primaries; the plumage is yellow, and each feather is not loose and decomposed like that of *Aphanapteryx*. It also has a characteristic Ralline tail.

The "Mauritius henne" therefore belongs to a totally different genus. I propose to call it

KUINA, gen. nov.

Wing small, incapable of flight. Size as big as a hen; bill long, pointed and decurved; tarsus and toes heavy and strong, the latter not long, adapted for walking on hard ground; general colour of plumage yellowish-wheaten.

The generic name is the word for Water-Rail in Japanese.

Kuina mundyi, sp. nov.

Mauritius henne, 'Peter Mundy's Journal,' 1608-1667.

"Mauritius Hen" of Peter Mundy, Selater, Ibis, pp. 316-319, with fig., 1915.

Mauritius hen, 'The Travels of Peter Mundy in Europe and Asia,' 1608-1667, publ. Hakluyt Soc., vol. iii. p. 352, with fig., 1919.

Distribution.—Mauritius.

Description.—Entire body is yellowish-wheaten colour, that is to say, it is of light buffish-brown on the dorsal part, gradually lightening as it goes to the abdominal part of the body, which is yellowish-buff. In Mundy's drawing each feather has a dark-coloured portion which is probably dark brown. Wing has proper primary feathers, but short and not serviceable for lifting the heavy body from the ground, but it spreads and beats them when the birds make an effort to run fast. I have seen this among the Leysan Island Flightless Rail under captivity. The tail is normally developed, and no doubt moved up and down like that of all the members of the Ralline family. Mandible long, pointed, and decurved; legs heavy; toes fairly short, but thick and strong, adapted for hard

cursorial habits. *Kuina* looks altogether like a gigantic fat Corn-Crake (*Crex*) with long pointed bill.

Mr. J. DELACOUR sent the following note :—

In 'L'Oiseau et la Rev. Franç. d'Ornithologie,' vol. vi. no. 3, p. 377, 1937, I proposed the generic name *Phæonetta* for *Anas erythrophthalma* Wied, Beitr. Naturg. Brasil, iv. 1832, p. 929 (Villa Belmonte, S. Brazil). I had overlooked that it had been used for *Anas fusca* Linn. by Witmer Stone, 'The Auk,' vol. xxiv. 1907, p. 198. I therefore propose the new name

Phæoaythia ; type, *Anas erythrophthalma* Wied.

This peculiar duck differs conspicuously in life from the species of the genus *Nyroca*, with which it has so far been usually united, in its lighter, more elongate proportions, longer neck, and narrower bill. It is more closely related to *Netta* and *Metopiana*. Its distribution in South America and Africa is remarkable.

Capt. C. H. B. GRANT and Mr. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED sent the following seven notes :—

- (1) On the Type-locality of *Tyto alba affinis* Blyth, Ibis, 1862, p. 388.

Blyth gives Cape of Good Hope and a reference to Journ. Asiat. Soc. xxix. 1860, p. 100, where the specimen of *Strix flammeus* is listed as having been received from the Government Museum, Cape Town, through E. L. Layard. This specimen is the type of Blyth's *Strix affinis*, and we learn from the Director of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, under date April 8, 1937, that this type is no longer in existence.

The next place this name appears in is Layard's Bds. of S. Africa, 1867, p. 43, where he gives the Cape as a locality. We therefore consider that the exact type-locality of *Tyto alba affinis* Blyth can be fixed as Cape Town, Cape Province, South Africa.

- (2) On the Type-locality of *Tyto capensis capensis* A. Smith, S. Afr. Quart. Journ. 2nd ser. 1834, p. 317.

In the 'South African Quarterly Journal' Smith gives South Africa only, but in the 'Illustrations to Zoology,' 1849, pl. xiv.,